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**Title:**

Press release: State Budget

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EMBARGOED AGAINST DELIVERY.PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.STATE BUDGET.

31.8.72.

Big increases in State Government spending on welfare services, schools, health and hospital programmes were today announced by the Premier, Mr. Dunstan, when he presented his annual budget to Parliament.

Only tax change foreshadowed by the Premier was a rise in fees for the registration of documents relating to real and personal property transactions, which had not been reviewed for some time and where charges were substantially below those of the standard States of Victoria and New South Wales.

The Premier did not detail these but said later they would be set out in a Bill to be presented to Parliament shortly.

The increases will bring in an extra \$400,000 in the current financial year.

Mr. Dunstan, who is also State Treasurer, allocated \$11.3 million to welfare service spending - an increase of some 30% over last year's figure and 62% up on comparable spending in 1970-71.

The money will go to people on relief, to deserted wives, foster parents, unmarried mothers, youth programmes and increased help for Aboriginal people.

The Premier budgeted for \$108.8 million to be spent on education - an increase of almost 14½% over actual expenditure last year.

This provides for further teaching staff expansion to allow a reduction in pupil-teacher ratios in schools and for more ancillary staff to be taken on.

Hospital spending will go up from \$43 million in the last financial year to \$51.2 million.

Provision is included for the opening of the first stage of the Modbury Hospital, occupation of a further section of Strathmont Centre and improvements at the Queen Elizabeth, Royal Adelaide and Port Augusta hospitals.

Total Government spending on Revenue Account was estimated by the Premier at \$509,753,000.

This would leave a deficit of \$7,518,000. But Mr. Dunstan said he expected the promised review of Commonwealth grants would reduce this. It could also be affected by seasonal factors and by changes in the national economic climate.

Outside Parliament, the Premier said he had planned "a budget for the needy". "We have kept increases in Government charges to a minimum and at the same time provided more State help for those areas of our society which need it most - the school children, the sick and the underprivileged", Mr. Dunstan said.

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PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PREMIER, MR. DUNSTAN.

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